

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
13 January 2005 (13.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/002766 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: B22F 9/18, 9/20,  
C22C 14/00, 21/00, 45/08, 45/10, C01F 7/00, C01G 23/00

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(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/AU2004/000899

(22) International Filing Date: 5 July 2004 (05.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
2003903426 4 July 2003 (04.07.2003) AU  
2003906420 21 November 2003 (21.11.2003) AU

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,  
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:  
— with international search report

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF METAL COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for the production of titanium alloys and titanium-aluminium inter-metallic compounds and alloys. Starting from a precursor material including titanium subchloride (titanium trichloride or titanium dichloride), the precursor material is reduced by aluminium to produce titanium-aluminium intermetallic complexes or alloys and aluminium chloride which is driven away from the reaction zone so as to favour the forward reaction and the production of the titanium-aluminium compounds. Starting from a precursor material of titanium subchloride avoids the problems associated with starting from titanium metal (which is expensive to produce) or titanium tetrachloride (a reaction very difficult to control), and results in the production of powdered forms of titanium-aluminium compounds with controllable composition.

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